

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS TOKYO 11993

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS - KIM TAE CHUNG CASE

1. MORNING ASAHI SEPTEMBER 17 FRONTPAGE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN ON RETURN TO TOKYO SUNDAY. IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ASAHI ALSO REPORTED SUNDAY DISCUSSION OF KIM CASE BY FONMIN OHIRA AND VICE-MIN HOGEN. EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF BOTH ASAHI ARTICLES FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TRNSLATION QTE ASAHI FRONTPAGE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR USHIROKU ON KIM CASE, WITH CAPTIONS QTE ROK NOT STIFFENING ATTITUDE OVER DEMAND FOR VOLUNTARY APPERANCE BY FIRST SECRETARY KIM. UNQTE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU RETURNED VIA JAL, ARRIVING AT HANEDA 1450 SUNDAY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ ON KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT, AND TO ATTEND ASAI-PACIFIC CON CONFERENCE. AT AIRPORT AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TOLD PRESS FOLLOWING: (1) ROK SIDE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS INCIDENT IMPARING JAPAN-ROK FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND CERTAINLY DID NOT STIFFEN ATTITUDE OVER DEMAND FOR FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S VOLUNTARY APPEAANCE TO POLICE. (2) HOWEVER, THERE IS NO POSSIBLILITY THAT ROK SIDE WILL PRODUCE REPLY LEADING TO SETTLEMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INCIDENT WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

3. CONTINUING ASAHI REPORTED GIST OF AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY LAST RETURN HOME. DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE WAS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN SITUATION, IN FORM OF JAPAN'S DEMAND THAT FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON VOLUNTARILY REPORT TO POLICE. HOWEVER, SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED ESPECIALLY, AND ROK SIDE STILL CONTINUES TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON PREVENTING FISSURES FROM DEVELOPING IN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND ROK. THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIAL STIFFENING OF ROK ATTITUDE BECAUSE OF OUR DEMAND FOR VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE BY KIM DONG WOON

(B) HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT TIMING OF SETTLEMENT WILL NOT BE IN NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS. PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL, WHOM I MET ON 15TH, ALSO SAID QTE WE ASK YOU TO LEND US A LITTLE MORE TIME, TRUSTING ROK SINCERITY UNQTE. MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THIS TIME NOT NEEDED FOR INVESTIGATION BUT RATHER AIMED AT SETTLEMENT OF WHOLE INCIDENT.

(C) THERE SEEMS TO BE CHANGE IN TONE IN JUSTICE MINISTER SIN'S STATEMENTS PERHAPS AS RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO BELONG TO OPPOSITION PARTY TO WHICH KIM TAE CHUNG ALSO BELONGS. RE FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S QTE ALIBI UNQTE MENTIONED IN SAID MINISTER'S STATEMENT, I DO NOT THINK THIS HAS BEEN TESTED BY RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY JAPANESE AND ROK SIDES, ONE AGAINST OTHER.

4. ASAHI, IN SEPARATE BRIEF FRONT PAGE STORY HEADED QTE WILL CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT SETTING DEADLINE; POLICY OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS, UNQTE REPORTED THAT MOFA LEADERS, INCLUDING FONMIN OHIRA AND ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-MIN HOGEN, HELD CONSULTATIONS FOR OVER TWO HOURS SUNDAY EVENING AT FONMIN PRIVATE RESIDENCE, CENTERING ON REPORT BY AMBASSADOR USHIROKU, AND RETURN FROM SEOUL SAME DAY. MOFA LEADERS DISCUSSED HOW TO ASSESS ROK POSTURE TOWARD SETTLING INCIDENT, AND WHAT GOJ SHOULD DO FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT CASE. AS RESULT, UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED THAT ALTHOUGH ROK REASONS FOR ASKING FOR QTE LITTLE MORE TIME UNQTE CANNOT NECESSARILY BE SAID TO BE CLEAR, IT CAN BE CONSIDERED THAT ROK HAS OWN CIRCUMSTANCES, TOO, AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO WATCH ROK MOVES CAREFULLY AND CLOSELY, STILL FURTHER. MOFA WILL CONSULT FURTHER DURING AMBASSADOR USHIROKU STAY IN TOKYO, BUT IN LIGHT OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS THAT IT WILL DECIDE TO CONTINUE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROK WITHOUT SETTING SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT FOR
SETTLEMENT OF INCIDENT EVEN THOUGH FONMIN OHIRA LEAVING ON
TRIP ABROAD ON 23RD. END TRANSLATION.
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